

## Cherokee

**ABSOLUTE RATING:** Average  
**IMPROVEMENT RATING:** Average

**Absolute Ratings of Similar Districts**

Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
0	0	17	4	0

### Definitions of District Rating Terms

**Excellent-** District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

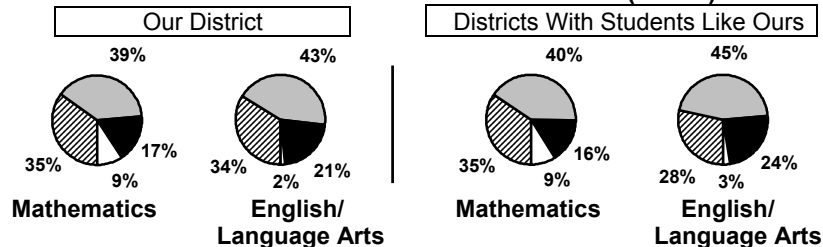
**Good-** District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Average-** District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Below Average-** District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Unsatisfactory-** District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

## PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



**Advanced**
 **Proficient**
 **Basic**
 **Below Basic**

### DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

### PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

Student Group	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2002		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Students Scoring Basic or Above on The PACT		
	N	%	N	%	N	% ELA	% Math
<b>All students</b>	494	90.5%	403	15.4%	3,994	66.1%	65.1%
Students with disabilities other than speech	23	69.6%	26	0.0%	315	25.1%	24.1%
Students without disabilities	471	91.3%	377	16.4%	3,663	69.9%	68.9%
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	242	88.4%	201	13.4%	2,026	60.9%	62.8%
Female	252	92.1%	202	17.3%	1,968	71.4%	67.5%
<b>Ethnic Group</b>							
African American	134	83.6%	109	3.7%	1,175	49.5%	48.5%
Hispanic	11	72.7%	9	11.1%	79	43.0%	48.1%
White	344	93.6%	282	19.9%	2,708	73.9%	72.6%
Other	5	80.0%	3	I/S	32	75.0%	84.4%
<b>Lunch Status</b>							
Free/reduced-price lunch	134	84.3%	134	4.5%	2,230	54.5%	54.4%
Pay for lunch	360	92.5%	269	20.8%	1,745	81.5%	79.4%

N equals number of students on which percentages are calculated.

\*Using the criteria for students who entered college in fall 2001.

## Cherokee

### TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	First-time Examinees		
	2000	2001	2002
<b>Our district</b>			
Passed all 3 subtests	53.8%	60.0%	57.1%
Passed 2 subtests	17.9%	16.9%	18.8%
Passed 1 subtest	14.7%	13.9%	12.6%
Passed no subtest	13.7%	9.1%	11.5%
<b>Districts with students like ours</b>			
Passed all 3 subtests	65.1%	68.2%	63.5%
Passed 2 subtests	18.2%	16.7%	18.7%
Passed 1 subtest	10.5%	9.3%	11.2%
Passed no subtest	6.2%	5.8%	6.5%

### LIFE scholarships at four-year institutions\*

	Percent of Seniors Meeting Grade Point Average Requirement	Meeting SAT/ACT Requirement
Our District	15.4	59.1
Districts Like Ours	17.0	53.1
		23.3
		17.7

\*Using the criteria for students who entered college in fall 2001.

**College Admissions Tests:** Tests that are frequently used in the college admissions process.

	SAT Verbal		SAT Math		SAT Total		ACT English		ACT Math		ACT Reading		ACT Science		ACT Total	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
District	462	457	456	472	918	929	18.7	18.6	18.4	19.2	19.6	19.8	19.2	19.2	19.1	19.3
State	486	488	488	493	974	981	18.8	18.8	19.3	19.1	19.5	19.3	19.2	19.2	19.3	19.2
Nation	506	504	514	516	1020	1020	20.5	20.2	20.7	20.6	21.3	21.1	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

These tests were administered to samples of students:

**Terra Nova Test:** A national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percent scoring in upper half

	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Grade 4	47.8	50.0	43.1	50.0	58.4	50.0	50.5	50.0
Grade 7	45.8	50.0	59.4	50.0	54.7	50.0	53.9	50.0
Grade 10	59.6	50.0	59.5	50.0	62.4	50.0	59.1	50.0

**National Assessment of Education Progress :** A national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

### Percents of Students

Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	4	1998	4	6	18	23	33	32	45	39
Writing	8	1998	0	1	15	23	64	59	21	17
Mathematics	4	2000	2	3	16	23	42	43	40	31

### ABBREVIATIONS FOR MISSING DATA

N/A – Not Applicable

N/C – Not Collected

N/R – Not Reported

I/S – Insufficient Sample

## DISTRICT PROFILE

### INDICATORS OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

	This District	Change from Last Year	Districts With Students Like Ours	Median District
<b>DISTRICT</b>				
• Dollars per student	\$6,964	Up 11.7%	\$6,964	\$7,072
• Prime instructional time	88.6%	Up from 88.5%	89.9%	89.9%
• Student-teacher ratio	20.1 to 1	Down from 20.9 to 1	18.3 to 1	18.6 to 1
• Vacancies for more than nine weeks	1.5%	No change	0.4%	0.4%
<b>STUDENTS (n=8,830)</b>				
• Advanced placement/ Int'l baccalaureate program:				
Participation Rate	6.6%	N/A	8.6%	9.3%
Exam Success Rate	57.4%	N/A	57.3%	52.7%
• Attendance Rate	94.9%	Down from 95.1%	95.9%	96.0%
• Taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	2.6%	Up from 1.6%	5.9%	7.1%
• Taking PACT (Math) off grade level	1.8%	Up from 1.2%	5.4%	5.6%
• Retention rate	4.6%	Up from 3.6%	5.9%	5.6%
<b>TEACHERS (n=616)</b>				
• Professional development days per teacher	5.0 Days	Down from 8.7Days	5.0 Days	5.0 Days
• Attendance rate	95.1%	Up from 94.9%	95.1%	95.0%
• Advanced Degrees	54.5%	Up from 54.2%	43.9%	46.6%
• Continuing contracts	87.5%	Up from 80.2%	83.6%	83.1%
• Out-of-field permits	2.4%	No change	1.9%	2.0%
• Teachers returning from the previous year	91.9%	No change	89.2%	88.6%
• Average salary	\$40,479	Up 3.7%	\$38,825	\$39,023

### DISTRICT FACTS

<b>DISTRICT</b>				
• Annual dropout rate	3.1%	Down from 3.3%	3.7%	3.1%
• Percentage spent on teacher salaries	54.2%	Up from 50.4%	54.0%	53.7%
• Superintendent's years in the district	2.0	Up from 1.0	3.0	3.0
• Parent conferences	99.0%	Up from 85.3%	94.2%	93.9%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
• Number of schools	18	No change	10	8
• Number of alternative schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of magnet schools	0	No change	0	0
• Portable classrooms	6.0%	Up from 1.2%	7.4%	6.6%
• Attendance rate of district office staff	97.1%	Up from 94.2%	97.1%	96.8%
• Average administrative salary	\$69,460	Up 3.0%	\$66,047	\$66,570
<b>STUDENTS</b>				
• Enrollment in adult education GED or diploma programs	519	N/A	272	129
• Number of completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	107	N/A	54	37
• Suspensions and expulsions	1.2%	N/A	1.6%	1.5%
• Percent eligible for state gifted and talented programs	15.5%	Up from 14.1%	11.6%	10.6%
• Percentage with disabilities other than speech	7.1%	No change	11.1%	10.7%

Cherokee School District  
P. O. Box 460  
Gaffney, SC 29342



**Grades** K-12

**Enrollment:** 8,830 Students

**Superintendent** Dr. William B. James 864-902-3500

**Board Chair** Mr. Greg B. Kirby 864-487-9058

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Annual District  
Report Card**

**2002**

### DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Cherokee County School District is committed to implementing its mission to "... partner with family and community, insuring that all students have the skills necessary to compete and excel as responsible citizens in a global society by providing world-class educational programs." A \$68,000 Professional Development for Standards Implementation Grant provides training for teachers and school administrators to implement a standards-based, challenging, instructional program.

Part of the district's \$50 million budget is used to implement the new technology vision, "Learning in the Worldwide Classroom". This integrative computer curriculum provides the road map for students in every school to use technology in all curriculum areas. All district students and staff have access to the Copernicus Education Gateway Learning Network. Students log on at Internet site <http://www.edgate.com> to access many Copernicus program components which include: The Research Center giving students access to search engines, online dictionaries, and encyclopedias; Current Events, Discovery Adventures, Teacher Toolbox giving teachers access to the best teacher resources on the Internet, and SchoolNotes.com enabling teachers to design their own web pages and have e-mail addresses to enhance communication with students, parents, and community. PLATO computer labs are used for instruction, tutoring and academic enrichment, enhancing existing textbooks, standards-aligned curriculum, and instructional programs. All elementary and middle schools have Compass Learning Labs that are used to reinforce students' reading/language arts and mathematics skills. Two distance-learning labs allow students to earn college course credit through a partnership between the school district and area colleges.

Nearly 64% of Cherokee County teachers hold at least a masters degree. This well-trained staff implements effective instructional programs that result in high performing and achieving students. Fifteen district teachers in Cherokee County have National Accreditation status. John Dickson, a district high school student, discovered a new calculus formula for finding higher order derivatives (Spring 2002). His new formula is in the process of being copyrighted. During the year 2001-2002, Blacksburg High and Gaffney High students received approximately \$6.3 million dollars in scholarships. The combined efforts of supportive parents, excellent students, dedicated and determined educators, and a concerned and caring community 'make a difference' for Cherokee County children. Please visit the district's website at [[www.cherokee1.k12.sc.us](http://www.cherokee1.k12.sc.us)] for additional information.

Dr. William B. James, Superintendent

### South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit  
[www.myschools.com](http://www.myschools.com) or  
[www.sceoc.org](http://www.sceoc.org)